



Department of Justice

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SIX MEMBERS OF ORLANDO AREA FALSE INCOME TAX RETURN CONSPIRACY INDICTED

Orlando, FL - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the unsealing of an indictment charging William J. Albritton (age 49, of Dunnellon--no relation to the U.S. Attorney), Barbara Lamb Albritton (age 66, of Dunnellon--no relation to the U.S. Attorney), Billy Jean Leisenring (age 40, of Kissimmee), Beverly Ann Hersey (age 70, of Winter Park), Charles Lints (age 51, of Orlando), and Timothy Darren Thompson (age 41, of Clermont) with conspiracy to defraud the United States by obtaining payment of false federal income tax refunds and using others' personal identification information to commit the fraud. If convicted on both counts, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in federal prison. The indictment also notifies the defendants that the United States is seeking a money judgment in the amount of at least \$140,245.21, the proceeds allegedly obtained from filing fraudulent returns during the 2007 calendar year.

According to the indictment, the defendants conspired to submit false federal income tax returns using the names, forged signatures, and social security numbers of inmates of the Florida Department of Corrections. William Albritton, who himself was an inmate, obtained the names and social security numbers of other inmates, as well as the Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) of legitimate companies. The conspirators then

created false W-2 forms using the inmates' personal information and the companies' EINs, and they submitted false tax returns based on those W-2s that claimed tax refunds. Refund checks were issued to addresses controlled by Barbara Albritton and Leisenring, who distributed those refund checks among the conspirators, who then cashed those checks, kept a portion for themselves and then returned the rest of the proceeds to Barbara Albritton and Leisenring.

U.S. Attorney Albritton stated: "Today is 'tax day,' and millions of citizens will file legitimate income tax returns and pay their fair share of taxes. Those who file false returns face serious criminal penalties."

Linda J. Osuna, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Tampa Field Office, stated, "The object of this alleged refund fraud scheme was to swindle the government and the taxpaying public. In this case IRS Criminal Investigation identified, investigated and vigorously prosecuted those who were involved in filing false claims for refunds."

This case was investigated by the St. Cloud Internal Revenue Service - United States Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel C. Irick.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.